

CLAIMS:

1. A foldable top suitable for a convertible vehicle, comprising:
  - a rear window supported within a roof covering,
  - a tensioning bow arranged and constructed to impart a tension across a rear portion of the roof covering when the foldable top is disposed in a roof closed position, wherein a lower edge of the rear window is arranged and constructed to be supported along a supporting portion of the tensioning bow when the foldable top is disposed in the roof closed position,
  - at least one connector disposed on the supporting portion between the rear window and the tensioning bow, the at least one connector being arranged and constructed to releaseably engage the lower edge of the rear window with the tensioning bow when the foldable top is disposed in the roof closed position and to disengage the rear window from the tensioning bow when the foldable top is opened.
2. A foldable top according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connector defines an interlocking engagement.
3. A foldable top according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connector defines a frictional engagement.
4. A foldable top according to claim 1, further comprising a folding top kinematic linking assembly supporting the roof covering and being arranged and constructed to effect opening and closing of the foldable top and to control movement of the rear window relative to the tensioning bow during the opening and closing of the foldable top, wherein the at least one connector is arranged and constructed to be engaged and disengaged when the folding top kinematic linkage assembly respectively closes and opens the foldable top.
5. A foldable top according to claim 4, wherein the foldable top kinematic linking assembly is arranged and constructed such that a lifting, pivoting and/or pushing movement is defined between the rear window and the tensioning bow during the opening and closing of the foldable top, which movement respectively disengages and engages the connector.
6. A foldable top according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connector is arranged and

constructed to disengage when the rear window moves in an opposite direction with respect to the tensioning bow.

7. A foldable top according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of discrete connectors is disposed along the supporting portion of the tensioning bow.
8. A foldable top according to claim 1, wherein the at least one connector comprises a hook portion and a complementary projection defined adjacent to a recess, the hook portion and complementary projection being respectively defined so as to be engageable when the folding top is moved from a roof open position to a roof closed position and to be disengageable when the folding top is moved from the roof closed position to the roof open position.
9. A foldable top as in claim 8, wherein the hook portion is coupled to the rear window and the complementary projection is coupled to the tensioning bow.
10. A foldable top according to claim 8, further comprising a molding defined along a lower edge of the rear window, wherein the molding integrally defines the hook portion.
11. A foldable top according to claim 10, wherein the molding comprises several layers and includes an integrated reinforcement part disposed adjacent to the hook portion.
12. A foldable top according to claim 10, wherein the molding extends from an inner side of the rear window to a corner area of the rear window, and wherein a lip profile is defined along an exterior surface of the molding and extends along substantially the same level as the lower edge of the rear window.
13. A foldable top according to claim 10, wherein the molding comprises a synthetic resin material disposed on the lower edge of the rear window and the hook portion is substantially wedge-shaped.
14. A foldable top according to claim 10, wherein the molding is a single, continuous member affixed to the rear window.

15. A foldable top according to claim 10, further comprising a sealing profile member extending along an inner side of the rear window adjacent to the molding.

16. A foldable top according to claim 15, wherein the sealing profile member is elongated and covers at least a portion of the molding to the rear window.

17. A foldable top according to claim 8, wherein the projection comprises an extension forming a groove/notch-shaped recess attached to the tensioning bow.

18. A foldable top according to claim 8, wherein the hook portion is shaped as a profile part in a single, continuous member extending along a molding defined along the lower edge of the rear window, the hook portion being arranged and constructed to detachably engage the complementarily projection, which extends along the length of the supporting portion of the tensioning bow.

19. A foldable top according to claim 1, further comprising:

a folding top kinematic linking assembly supporting the roof covering and being arranged and constructed to effect opening and closing of the foldable top and to control movement of the rear window relative to the tensioning bow during the opening and closing of the foldable top, wherein the foldable top kinematic linking assembly is arranged and constructed such that a lifting, pivoting and/or pushing movement is defined between the rear window and the tensioning bow during the opening and closing of the foldable top, which movement respectively disengages and engages the connector,

a molding defined along the lower edge of the rear window and comprising several layers, wherein a reinforcement part is integrated within the molding and a lip profile is defined along an exterior surface of the molding, and

wherein the connector defines an interlocking, frictional engagement and comprises a hook portion and a complementary projection defined adjacent to a recess, the hook portion and complementary projection being defined so as to be engageable when the folding top is moved from a roof open position to a roof closed position and to be disengageable when the folding top is moved from the roof closed position to the roof open position, wherein the molding defines the hook portion and the molding and the hook portion define a single, continuous member affixed to the rear window.

20. A foldable top as in claim 19, wherein the hook portion is fixedly coupled to the rear window and the complementary projection is fixedly coupled to the tensioning bow.

21. An apparatus comprising:

first means for moving a foldable top between a roof closed position and a roof open position, and

second means for automatically unlocking a lower edge of a rear window supported within the foldable top from a tensioning bow disposed within the foldable top while the foldable top is being moved from the roof closed position to the roof open position.

22. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the second means comprises a releasable connector.

23. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the second means is further arranged and constructed to automatically lock the lower edge of the rear window to the tensioning bow while the foldable top is being moved from the roof open position to the roof closed position.

24. A method comprising:

moving a foldable top from a roof closed position to a roof open position, and

automatically unlocking a lower edge of a rear window supported within the foldable top from a tensioning bow disposed within the foldable top while the foldable top is being moved from the roof closed position to the roof open position.

25. A method according to claim 24, further comprising:

moving the foldable top from the roof open position to the roof closed position, and

automatically locking the lower edge of the rear window to the tensioning bow while the foldable top is being moved from the roof open position to the roof closed position.